

Name:  
English 8  
Ms. Breitman/Ms. Haywood  
Date:

## *Inherit the Wind* Advice Column – Narrative Letter Writing Project

Some characters in the book are in conflict with themselves and others are in conflict with other people or groups of people. You will write a personal letter between characters or an advice column. In an advice column, a person writes in to a newspaper to ask for help on a personal problem or a troubling situation. This writing project is due February 14 and is worth **50 points**.

Imagine you are one of the characters from *Inherit the Wind* that you identified in your conflict planning sheet: **Rachel, Bert, Reverend Brown, Drummond, Brady**.

Either write a personal letter to the person who you feel conflict with

OR

**Write a letter** to the Hillsboro Helper, an advice columnist at The Hillsboro Herald, **or** the Baltimore Backstop, an advice columnist at The Baltimore Herald, asking for help with what to do. Here are their addresses:

Hillsboro Helper, The Hillsboro Herald, 123 Main Street, Hillsboro, Tennessee 01234

OR

Baltimore Backstop, The Baltimore Backstop, 123 Main Street, Baltimore, Maryland 01234

**Your letter should include:**

**\*3-5 paragraphs**

**\*5 facts about the character**

**\*The reason he or she feels conflict**

**\*3 quotes the character says or are said about him/her**

**\*The problem he or she is facing**

**\*Possible solutions and what the results would be.**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Write a letter back from the columnist at the newspaper or from the other character who they wrote a personal letter to. (Up to 10 extra points added to the grade depending on length, detail, and complexity).

## OUTLINE

### Address of recipient

- \*
- \*
- \*

### PARAGRAPH ONE---DESCRIBE YOURSELF

Open your letter with background information about YOU, writing in FIRST PERSON, as the CHARACTER IN CONFLICT.

- Explain your job, your relationship to the person that you are in conflict with, and where you are from or the community where you live. (PERSONAL HISTORY and SETTING).

### 5 character facts to include

- \*
- \*
- \*
- \*
- \*
- \*

### PARAGRAPH TWO--DESCRIBE THE CONFLICT

**Use specific information from the text to explain the conflict or problems that you face. Consider different dimensions of the conflict: man v. man, man v. himself/herself, man v. society.**

**Describe the conflict**

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\*  
\*

**Give examples that show your struggle and illustrate the problem. Use a scene or two from the play**

\*  
\*  
\*

**Support your situation with at least two to three KEY QUOTES or STAGE DIRECTIONS from ACT ONE and/or ACT TWO (up to the end of scene I). Be sure to INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS and use in-text citation.**

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**Write about the emotions that YOU feel and how those emotions impact YOUR life.**

- Explain how the conflict or problem impacts your life and relationships with others and the community.

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\*

**PARAGRAPH THREE: HOW DO WE RESOLVE THIS?**

**Identify what you think are the CHOICES or OPTIONS that you have in making a decision to resolve the conflict.**

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Here is a model for you to review:

July 18, 1925

Hillsboro Helper  
The Hillsboro Herald  
123 Main Street  
Hillsboro, Tennessee 01234

Dear Hillsboro Helper,

I am a boy of thirteen, and I like a girl with "pigtail[s]" who lives in my town -- her name is Melinda (Lawrence and Lee 3). My town is known as "Heavenly Hillsboro" because we are big on religion. We have a minister who scares the daylight out of me and others. Reverend Brown and the people in my town are so devoted to religion that they don't want us learning other stuff.

Some people where I live think that "[a]ll the answers to [ ] questions [about where we came from, where we are, where we're going] are in the Bible" (Lawrence and Lee 34). But Mr. Bertram Cates, my biology teacher, says that "man wasn't just stuck here like a geranium in a flower pot" (Lawrence and Lee 8.). His way of thinking makes a lot of sense to me. And I like the way that he thinks. Plus, he's got cool equipment like microscopes that we can use to look at dirt. It's not that I don't believe in God, it's just that I am a curious boy and Mr. Cates makes learning fun.

I don't know why I mistreat Melinda when I really like her. Every time I see her, I get all flustered and act like a fool. I teased her last week with a worm. I "dangle[d] it in front of her face" and even told her that she "was a worm once!" (Lawrence and Lee 4). So instead of asking Melinda to go to the church social with me, I grossed her out.

Honestly, I just got carried away with what Mr. Bertram told me about. I thought I would try to impress "Lindy" with some fancy talk about science. But Melinda was "skeered" of the worm. I should have stopped right then, but no. I went ahead and told her about evolution so she could see how smart I am. I explained that there was a time "[w]hen the whole world was covered with water, there was nuthin' but worms and blobs of jelly. And [she] and [her] whole family was worms!" (Lawrence and Lee 4). Well, that really offended her. Melinda said that my ideas are "sinful talk" (Lawrence and Lee 4). Then we just got into a shouting match, and it went downhill from there.

Finally, I am ashamed to admit that I did a really stupid and unfriendly act and called her dad "a monkey" (Lawrence and Lee 5). I know it's wrong to tease people and call them names, and I'm not proud of what I did. For Melinda, that was the last straw. Lindy just stomped her foot and stormed off.

I doubt she will ever speak to me again. What should I do so I can get her to forgive me and talk to me? I don't want to apologize for my thoughts because how can ideas hurt anyone? Maybe I should say sorry for waving a dirty worm at her and for insulting her dad? The last thing I want to do is have her blabbing about this. People in town already think I am a goofball.

We are having a picnic soon, and I want Melinda to be my friend even though she called me a sinner. I don't want to be in trouble with her or her dad. He is sure to hear of this as we live in such a small community. He might come after me with a block of soap!

Sincerely,  
Clueless in love